REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Applicants elect an interferon, Met-Nle, and PEG. Claims 1-13 read on at least one of the elected species. It is noted that the Examiner stated on page 3 of the Office Action, "Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all limitations of an allowed generic claim." Therefore, examination will be extended beyond the elected species after a generic claim has been allowed. Applicants do not traverse the independent patentability of individual species.

But reconsideration of the restriction requirement is requested.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's contention that the claims lack unity of invention because they are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. In particular, there is no evidence of record that the functionalizing entity FE is advantageously the specific linkages recited in claims 1 and 8. Therefore, Applicants request that all of the claims be examined together in this application.

Applicants earnestly solicit an early and favorable examination on the merits. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if any further information is required.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX
MARKED-UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The specification is amended as follows.

Page 12, add the following heading on line 28:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims are amended as follows.

1. (Amended) A biologically active conjugate derivative having the following general formula (I)

FE – L – M (I)

where[ ]:

M represents the corresponding radical of a biologically active molecule selected from the group consisting of proteins, peptides, and polypeptides;

FE represents a functionalizing entity selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and [or] antibody fragments; and

L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro,

which is capable of being cleaved by chemical treatment to leave Nle, βAla, Gly or Pro, respectively, as a reporter group linked to M.

6. (Amended) The biologically active conjugate derivative according to claim 1 characterised in that said biologically active molecule is a protein selected from the group consisting of insulin, lysozyme [lysozime], interferon, erythropoietin [erithropoietin], G-CSF, and GH.

7. (Amended) A method for identifying linkage sites of conjugation of the functionalizing entity FE selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and [or] antibody fragments, on the biologically active drug conjugate derivative of claim 1, along the biologically active molecule M, which method comprises a specific chemical cleavage of the linking arm L comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gln-Gly, and Asp-Pro, releasing after removing and separating FE by classical methods, to leave Nle, βAla, Gly or Pro, respectively, as a reporter group linked to M.

8. (Amended) An intermediate compound, for the preparation of the biologically active conjugate of claim 1, having the following general formula (II)

FE - L (II)

where

FE represents a functionalizing entity selected from the group consisting of PEG, PVP, PacM, dextran, hormones, antibodies, and [or] antibody fragments; and

L represents a linking arm comprising a dipeptide selected from the group consisting of Met-Nle, Met-βAla, Gin-Gly, and Asp-Pro.

Claims 9-13 are added as new claims.